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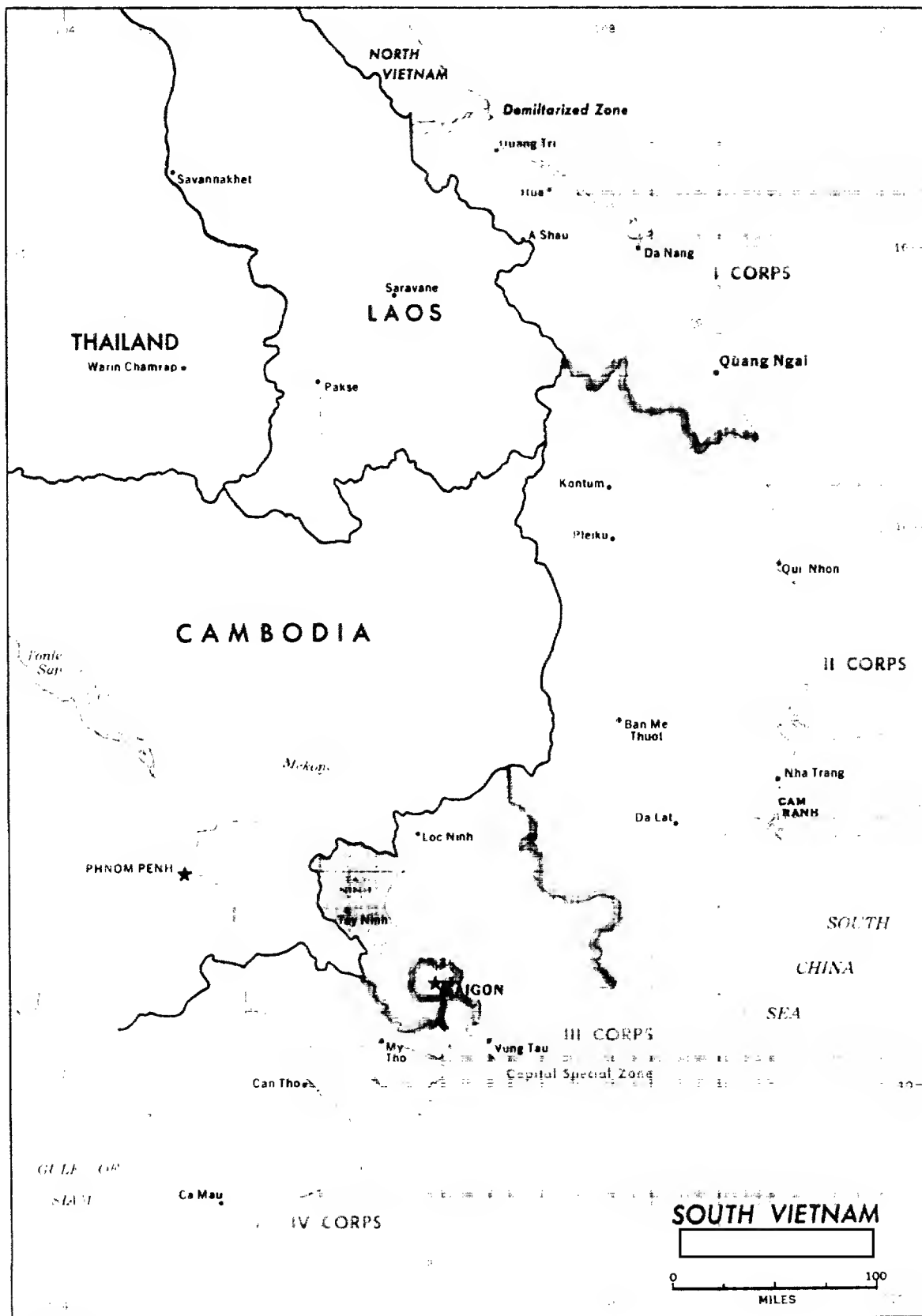
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Vietnam:

South Vietnam: Except for occasional skirmishes in the delta provinces south of Saigon and a light rocket attack against Quang Ngai city in southern I Corps, little significant military activity was reported in South Vietnam on 13-14 October.

The Communists are making preparations, however, to renew hostilities in Tay Ninh Province, a principal battleground. Although many of the enemy's main force combat units have withdrawn in recent weeks to base camps and border sanctuaries, a Communist district official has reportedly stated that the Viet Cong in the province planned to conduct a military and political campaign from 10 to 25 October.

The Communists apparently hope to employ economy-of-force tactics, such as shellings and ambushes, in order to maintain prolonged pressure at minimum cost while they organize for the upcoming winter-spring campaign.

In the lowland areas of III and IV corps, particularly west of Saigon, however, Communist ground movements seem likely to be severely inhibited by floods resulting from recent heavy rains. Enemy units already have been encountering difficulties due to allied spoiling operations and the loss of supply caches, and any planned enemy moves probably will be postponed at least until late October.

North Vietnam: After spending the last two months in Paris, North Vietnamese politburo member Le Duc Tho left France for Hanoi on 14 October. A North Vietnamese spokesman said the trip was for consultations and professed ignorance about when or if Tho would return to Paris. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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France: The National Assembly's passage of a sweeping educational reform bill demonstrates that the government is determined to correct the underlying defects which led to last May's crisis.

Minister of Education Faure, the principal architect of the new reforms, allowed only minor amendments as he steered his bill toward final passage on 11 October. He made clear throughout the long and stormy debate that he had the solid support of President de Gaulle and Prime Minister Couve de Murville. This tactic enabled him to override persistent objections from within the restive Gaullist majority. By arguing that his proposals were a judicious blend of reform and safeguards against abuse, Faure was also able to rally support from both the center and the non-Communist left.

On the final vote, over 90 percent of the assembly voted affirmatively, with only the Communists and a handful of recalcitrant Gaullists abstaining. This marked the first time in the history of the Fifth Republic that a major reform bill did not receive a single negative vote.

The most controversial section of the bill gives students the right to hold political discussions on university premises, and awards them control over student "social" arrangements such as dormitory rules.

Other important provisions have generated less heated debate. One gives each university greater autonomy from central government control, thus allowing experimentation and adaptation to local and regional situations. Another provision establishes elected councils--composed of students, faculty, and nonteaching personnel--at the university, regional, and national levels. The national council will advise the Ministry of Education on the allocation of funds and long-range educational planning goals.

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During the coming months of adjustment to the new system some student protests are inevitable. If, however, the Faure reforms are implemented with imagination and skill, they are likely to prevent a recurrence of widespread student violence. [REDACTED]

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[Panama: Scattered violence against the new military government continues, but support for Arnulfo Arias is dwindling.

Students clashed with the national guard yesterday and Communist-led student leaders are trying to organize additional violence. The large Communist-controlled Panamanian Federation of Students has distributed leaflets in the capital denouncing the junta and calling for active resistance. Although these elements are not particularly sympathetic to Arias, they are using antimilitarist sentiment to provoke disorders.

The general strike and armed resistance to the junta which Arias called for did not materialize yesterday. Some party leaders in the Arias coalition believe that his cause is doomed and hope that he can be persuaded to leave the country in order to clear the way for a return to civilian government.

25X1 [redacted] Arias supporters are skeptical of the ousted president's claims of forthcoming military assistance from abroad. They will probably desert Arias at the first opportunity. [redacted]

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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Czechoslovak and Soviet leaders seem to be discussing a variety of topics in addition to a status-of-forces agreement during the current round of negotiations in Moscow. Prague radio reported yesterday that the Czechoslovak delegation was to discuss "questions arising from the implementation of the Moscow protocol." The justice and health ministers and a Slovak agricultural official were included on the delegation. The major topic presumably remains the agreement for stationing Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia, which was the subject of technical talks last week. [REDACTED]

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Argentina-France: The Argentine Air Force is negotiating for the purchase of [REDACTED] Mirage supersonic tactical jets to replace outmoded aircraft. The deal with the French manufacturer has been in process for several months, but final Argentine approval has not yet been given. Argentina purchased 24 subsonic A4-B attack aircraft from the US in 1966 and has an additional 25 on order. [REDACTED]

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Uruguay: Student disorders may erupt in Montevideo today with the reopening of the national university and other public schools. Most schools were closed by President Pacheco last month after a series of antigovernment riots and demonstrations. Leftist professors and students dominate the university and are resisting the government's efforts to reassert control. [REDACTED]

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Philippines-Malaysia: Some temporary easing of tensions over the Philippine claim to Sabah may be in prospect. Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Razak has agreed to meet with Philippine Foreign Secretary Ramos sometime after 22 October in Tokyo to discuss ways to reduce tension and the possibility of a meeting between President Marcos and Prime Minister Rahman. At the same time Razak reiterated that Malaysia will not discuss the Sabah claim. The talks may nevertheless result in a new cooling-off period similar to the abortive one agreed to in August which collapsed after Manila refused to recognize Malaysian sovereignty over Sabah. [REDACTED]

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Congo (Brazzaville): Army strong man Ngouabi last week dropped several prominent ultraleftists from the ruling military-civilian council, claiming their talents were needed elsewhere in the government. These dismissals probably strengthen the army's position, but there are no indications as yet that Brazzaville intends to abandon its pro-Communist foreign policies or its dedication to "scientific socialism" at home. Moreover, the leftists are still represented in the council and will probably continue to wield significant influence. [REDACTED]

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Chad: During early October large bands of crudely armed dissidents ambushed five units of Chad's armed forces--charged with protecting government tax collectors--150 miles east of the capital, Fort Lamy. The incidents apparently were not directly related to the three-year-old Muslim rebellion in Chad's eastern provinces, which have been relatively quiet for the past several months. The attacks, however, could inspire the Muslim rebels, who have capitalized on local discontent in the past, to renew operations. The army chief of staff, an advocate of harsh measures, has been dispatched to the area to quell the disturbances. [REDACTED]

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